

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 16-19 are pending. Claims 1, 8 and 16 are the independent claims. In the Office Action dated April 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 and 16 as obvious over the combination of the article by Hazam et al. with other references. Claims 17-19 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejections combining various references with the Hazam et al. article. However, in order to expedite issuance of the claims currently designated by the Examiner as allowable, Applicant has canceled claims 1-15 and 17. Applicant reserves the right to refile claims 1-15 and unamended claim 16 in a continuation application.

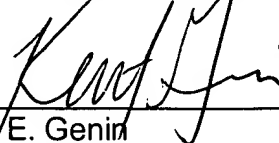
II. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes, with thanks, the Examiner's indication of allowability for claims 17-19. Applicant has amended independent claim 16 to include the features of claim 17, and canceled claim 17. Applicant has also amended claim 18 to include all the features of independent claim 16. The Examiner provided a statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants believe that all the claims indicated as allowable are patentable. Furthermore, other distinctions between one or more of the claims and the cited art in addition to the Examiner's reason for allowance may exist.

III. Conclusion

With the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 16 and 18-19 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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